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PROGRESS REPORT FOR THE GEOGRAPHY DIVISION

for February 1959

I. ACCOMPLISHMENTS

A. Completed Work

Geography Division completed work during February consisted of 3 Geographic Intelligence Reports in the CIA/RR GR series, 4 NIS sections, 1 map and chart appraisal component of the NIS Chapter I Annual, and 9 geographic memoranda as follows:

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Requester

[Redacted Box]

NIS 20,
Albania

Section 19, Chapter I

ditto

NIS 9,
Spain

Map and Chart Appraisal Component
of Chapter I Annual

ditto

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[Redacted Box]

CIA/RR G/I 59-8

Comments on OCB Report on U.S. Policy
on Antarctica

DD/I

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CIA/RR G/I 59-9

[Redacted Box] Soviet
Expansion in Antarctica

OCR for DCI

CIA/RR G/I 59-10

Brief for Geodetic Target Error for
the ICBM in Relating Launch and
Target Points on Different
Continents

AD/SI for DCI

CIA/RR G/I 59-11

Scientific and Political Significance
of Mapping in Antarctica

OCI for DCI

(NSC Briefing)

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[Redacted Box]

B. Project Planning

Some planning was done in the Europe Branch on a possible GM or MR article on the distribution of the Soviet fishing fleet in the North Atlantic.

Further thinking has been done on that portion of the Near East/Africa Branch's Program for Africa that deals with the establishment of an Africa Committee. A draft memorandum has been prepared with the assistance of Ch/G.

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The Europe Branch presentation to the Satellites Committee of ORR will be given 18 March. Possible topics were discussed at two Branch meetings and further preliminary work was done.

Three tentative G/I's or OCI Weekly articles as follows are in preparation in the Special Research Branch: Oceanographic surveys in Antarctic waters;

implications of a recently established USSR-Latin American cultural relations organization.

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C. Progress of Work in the Branches and Staff's

USSR Branch: Production continued at a steady pace during the month.

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suggestion of Ch/G, [redacted] is being incorporated into the revision of G-15, The Soviet Arctic. Work is in progress on two studies on priority intelligence targets: [redacted]

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Near East/Africa Branch: The Branch informally presented ONE with a draft copy of "Petroleum Concessions in the Persian Gulf," which is to appear in MR 59-1, as a contribution to NIE 30-59, Main Trends in the Arab World, because the article indicates another area of potential conflict among Persian Gulf countries. ONE personnel considered it also a contribution to a projected National Estimate on Middle East oil.

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MR 59-2 on Africa is progressing well and two of the articles have been drafted. The Iraq Chapter IX contribution was begun in order to meet the March deadline.

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Far East/Pacific Branch: The month was characterized by steady progress on the scheduled research program of the Branch and by a "great leap forward" in the long-overdue culling and reorganizing of the substantive intelligence files maintained in the Branch. A major article on Communist China's Minority Area Policy in Perspective, for MR use,

to Possible Guided Missile Ranges in Communist China and Hydroelectric Power Potential of Communist China, although some minor retouching may be necessary before publication. Developmental plans were begun, looking toward possible formation of a South-Southeast Asia Discussion Group. Relations with other offices and agencies remained good, and liaison contacts were normal.

Special Research Branch: Extensive effort was devoted to Antarctic intelligence production and the preparation of briefing papers for the DCI and DD/I in connection with high-level studies of Antarctic problems. Other production included the preparation of two papers on the geodetic positioning problem for the DCI, and the participation with D/M in the redrafting of an article on Soviet whaling for the OCI Weekly.

The Ecuador-Peru boundary memorandum has been held in abeyance

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Editing and Review Staff: The completion of Geographic Intelligence Review No. 57 (issued as MR 59-1), which was sent to R production as the month ended, and work on China Mainland: Provisional Atlas of Administrative Units consumed a major part of the editorial time of the Staff during February. Three other manuscripts are in editing, two of which should be ready for final typing early in March. MR 59-1 will appear in new format with the contents listed on the cover.

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Coordination Branch: Chapter IX for NIS [redacted] of NIS 20, Albania, and the Section 19 portion of the Chapter I Annual for NIS 9, Spain, were forwarded to OBI in February.

The coordination of Chapter IX for NIS 102, Southwest Pacific Islands, has been delayed because of pressure of immediate Section 19 and Section 19 Annual deadlines. Coordination of Chapter IX of NIS 13 is well under way, and work on Chapter IX of NIS 101, West Pacific Islands, was begun during February.

II. RELATIONSHIPS OUTSIDE THE GEOGRAPHIC AREA

At NIS Committee Meeting No. 284 (17 February 1959), the Chapter IX Subcommittee proposals concerning production of Sections 19 and the Section 19 portions of the Chapter I Annuals were approved. Details of these proposals were covered in the Division monthly report for January and the minutes of the 30 January 1959 Chapter IX Subcommittee meeting.

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[redacted] accompanied the DCI and the DD/I to meetings of the Operations Coordinating Board and the Planning Board, NSC, respectively.

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